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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/45/849/Add.4)]

45/206. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/177 of 11 December 1987, in which it decided to convene the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as well as its resolutions 43/186 of 20 December 1988 and 44/220 of 22 December 1989,

Deeply concerned at the continuing deterioration in the socio-economic situation of the least developed countries as a whole,

Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, in which it was stated, inter alia, that it would be essential to stem the increasing marginalization of the least developed countries and to reactivate their growth and development through comprehensive national action and international support measures,

Affirming the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, in which Member States stressed, inter alia, the need for full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990, 1/

1/ See A/CONF.147/Misc.9.

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Recalling that the prime objective of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s is to arrest the further deterioration in the socio-economic situation of those countries, to reactivate and accelerate their growth and development and, in the process, to set them on the path of sustained growth and development,

Reaffirming the basic principles outlined in the Programme of Action as the basis for action by the least developed countries and their development partners, including international organizations, financial institutions and development funds, to promote fundamental, growth-oriented transformation of the economies of those countries,

Recalling the solemn commitment of the international community, as contained in the Paris Declaration, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 1/ to implement the Programme of Action throughout the 1990s,

Stressing that successful implementation of the Programme of Action will depend on shared responsibility and strengthened partnership for the growth and development of the least developed countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; 2/

2. Endorses the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Government and the people of France for acting as host to the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as well as for their gracious hospitality, excellent arrangements and important contribution to the outcome of the Conference;

4. Calls upon all Governments, international and multilateral organizations, financial institutions and development funds, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and all other organizations concerned to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to implement the Programme of Action;

5. Reaffirms that the least developed countries have the primary responsibility for the formulation and effective implementation of national policies and priorities for their growth and development;

6. Strongly urges all donor countries to implement fully and expeditiously their commitments in all areas, as set out in the Programme of Action, so as to provide adequate external support to the least developed countries;

2/ A/45/695.

7. Decides that regular review and monitoring of the progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels should be undertaken as envisaged in the Programme of Action, and, to that end, decides also that:

(a) The Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) shall meet in 1995 to carry out the mid-term review of the situation of those countries, report to the General Assembly on progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action and consider new measures as necessary;

(b) The Trade and Development Board shall consider, during each of its annual spring sessions, the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(c) Towards the end of the 1990s, the General Assembly shall consider holding a third United Nations conference on the least developed countries to make a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to decide on subsequent action;

(d) The organizations of the United Nations system shall undertake sectoral appraisals at regular intervals;

8. Notes that mechanisms such as United Nations Development Programme round tables and World Bank consultative groups will continue to constitute the backbone of the country review process and, in that context, recommends that:

(a) The country review groups should be organized on a more systematic basis and at regular intervals and should include all donors concerned;

(b) Least developed countries that do not have regular country review groups should consider adopting a country review process;

(c) Development partners should assist in strengthening the capacity of the Governments of the least developed countries to ensure the leadership role of those Governments in the country review process;

(d) Necessary links should be established between the follow-up at the national, regional and global levels;

9. Decides that UNCTAD, as part of its ongoing work, shall continue to serve as the focal point for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and its follow-up at the global level, and shall continue to provide support at the national and regional levels, in co-operation with other concerned organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system;

10. Decides, in this regard, to strengthen the UNCTAD Special Programme for the Least Developed Countries and to provide that Programme with sufficient resources to enable UNCTAD to discharge effectively its mandate concerning the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the

1990s on a timely basis and provide the secretariat services specified in the report of the Secretary-General; 2/

11. Invites the governing bodies of the organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system to take the necessary and appropriate measures for effective implementation and follow-up of the Programme of Action within their respective spheres of competence and according to their mandates;

12. Invites the preparatory bodies for all major forthcoming meetings and conferences of the United Nations system to take into account the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

13. Requests the Secretary-General, in conformity with paragraph 142 of the Programme of Action, 1/ to ensure the full mobilization and co-ordination of all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation and follow-up of the Programme of Action, in close collaboration with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the secretariats of the regional commissions and the lead agencies for the aid groups;

14. Also requests the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the role of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in the United Nations development system and his mandate concerning the implementation of the Programme of Action, to provide the office of the Director-General with the necessary support for activities related to the least developed countries;

15. Calls upon all organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to establish focal points for the least developed countries, where they do not already exist, and to strengthen the existing ones in order to involve them actively in the implementation tasks throughout the 1990s;

16. Invites all Governments, UNCTAD and other organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to assist the least developed countries in undertaking consultations among themselves on matters of common interest in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

17. Urges all Governments, international and multilateral organizations, regional economic integration organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations to continue to pay special attention to the problems of the least developed countries, and, in this regard, welcomes the initiative of the Government of Japan to hold a seminar, in collaboration with the United Nations Capital Development Fund, on the development problems of the least developed countries in the 1990s in Tokyo in May 1991;

18. Emphasizes the importance of economic and technical co-operation between the least developed countries and other developing countries, and, in that regard, highly recommends mechanisms of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries to strengthen the development efforts of the least developed countries and urges the development partners to assist in such activities;

19. Calls upon the international community to assist the landlocked and island least developed countries in coping with their special problems, in line with the relevant recommendations contained in the Programme of Action;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and also to report, on a continuing basis, on the implementation of the provisions of the Programme of Action.

71st plenary meeting
21 December 1990